Engineer employment follows economy shift

By Curtis Reeves

The Electrical Engineering Department presented a discussion on "A Look at Engineer- ing Employment" by representatives of Arthur D. Little, Inc. last Thursday evening.

Offered as part of the IAP activities of Course VI, the program dealt itself to "problems related to graduate school and placement opportunities," according to Roger Long. Other speakers from Little and Company were Scott Canan and Edward Swan, who works in hiring for the company along with Long.

Long noted that large numbers of engineers, particularly in New England and on the West Coast, are unemployed, but emphasized that this is not a cause for serious alarm. Similar job losses after World War II and in the late 1950's lasted only for a couple of years, and actually, resulted in a year of great advancement for engineers in all fields.

The same topic. Long commented, "In my view, what is going on now is a delayed version of what we should have seen in 1918," since the transistor and space technology impressed many engineers from financial crisis in the fifties.

"Engineering graduates are in demand only if they can produce, he emphasized. (Please turn to page 2)

Patin revenue to increase

By Lee Giguere

MIT's patent portfolio has been netting the Institute in excess of $1 million in recent years, but "an aggressive policy should substantially, in time, increase this revenue." According to Lawrence Gilbert, Director of Patent Administration, "we have not pursued a vigorous policy in licensing its patents.

The Patent Office, however, is now in the process of cataloging MIT's patent portfolio. By distributing a catalogue of MIT's patents within the Institute, Gilbert hopes to generate interest in acquiring possible licenses. He noted that it was important for MIT not to miss a "possible winner."

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"Although until about ten years ago, the Institute to educate its engineers was managed by an outside organization, Research Corporation. However, when a dispute developed over the licensing of Professor Jay Forrester's computer memory core, the patent administration office was set up to handle the case. Since that time, the office has not actively sought to exploit the MIT patent portfolio.

Gilbert explained that in the past, licenses were suggested by the inventor, the potential client, or the legal department of a major university or company. The administration department was set up to handle the case.

Of course, there is still a time lag involved in licensing a patent after it is issued, which, according to Gilbert, is typically six months or more. In the past, MIT has won 90 percent of its license suits. (Please turn to page 2)

Alcohol worse than 'pot'

By Bruce Peters

The Director of Brown University Health Services, Dr. Roswell Johnson, recently an- nounced before the American Association for the Advance- ment of Science that alcohol is currently a greater drug problem in the United States than mari- juana.

"The abuse of alcohol, a highly advertised illegal drug, is widespread and affects 7,000,000 under therapy (or who should be such facili- taries)." He scoffed at the law enforcement forces as a "greater threat to self and society than the moderate use of illegal marijuana."

Dr. Johnson found that alcohol is responsible for the death of 45,000 Americans yearly. "I dare the feeling of Dr. Joe Forl, Dr. Stanley Katzin, and others that alcohol is the most dangerous drug of all."

On the other hand, Dr. John- son described the classification of marijuana as a narcotic "total- ly incorrect." He further stated that the legal system is "repugnant to a scientific community."

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